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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO RUEHFO/USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4076
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 7229
RUEHLS/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA 5229
RUFHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 2395
RUEHTO/AMEMBASSY MAPUTO 2778
RUFHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2573
RUEHSB/AMEMBASSY HARARE 3245
RUEHLG/AMEMBASSY LILONGWE 1454
RUEHMB/AMEMBASSY MBABANE 7424
RUEHRU/AMEMBASSY MASERU 6102
BT
UNCLAS GABORONE 02851

USIA

USINFO FOR: P/M, AF-FELTHOUSEN, P/RMR, P/PFA, P/G,
VOA/BRA, VOA/BXN, STATE FOR: AF/S-PERRY, AF/P, XA

E.O. 12356: N/A
SUBJECT: STATE DEPARTMENT POSITION ON DIAMNOND
SANCTIONS

INDEPENDENT WEEKLY "MMEGI WA DIKGANG" (THE REPORTER) OF
28 MAY 1988 RAN BUSINESS SECTION ARTICLE WITH THE TITLE
"U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT REJECTS DIAMOND SANCTIONS".
ARTICLE SUMMARIZED MARCH 22 CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY OF
REP. MERVYN DYMALLY AND DAS RICHARD CORNELL ON DIAMNOND
SANCTIONS. EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

"ON TUESDAY, THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDIA CARRIED UNCONFIRMED
REPORTS THAT THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT HAD ISSUED A PLEA
FOR U.S. SANCTIONS NOT TO BE APPLIED TO SOUTH AFRICAN
DIAMONDS. BUT IN FACT, THE ISSUE OF DIAMOND SANCTIONS
HAS ALREADY BEEN DEBATED BEFORE THE U.S. HOUSE FOREIGN
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN LATE MARCH. AND STATE DEPARTMENT
REPRESENTATIVES ARGUED STRONGLY AGAINST THEM, DESPITE
THE FACT THAT THE MOTION UNDER DISCUSIION--THE DYMALLY
AMENDMENT--MADE SPECIFIC PROVISION FOR EXEMPTING THE
DIAMONDS OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS BOTSWANA.
OBSERVERS IN BOTSWANA HAVE LONG SUGGESTED THAT THE CLOSE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT AND DEBEERS
AND THE RECENT INCLUSION OF BOTSWANA REPRESENTATIVES ON
THE DEBEERS BOARD--COULD WELL HAVE A HIDDEN SPIN-OFF
ADVANTAGE FOR SOUTH AFRICA IN PROTECTING PRETORIA FROM
WHAT WOULD, POTENTIALLY, BE AN EXTREMELY DAMAGING FORM
OF SANCTIONS." END EXCERPTS. APSLER
END OF MESSAGE   UNCLASSIFIED

Rep Dymally
HFAC

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